Fiction or Nonfiction?

Objective
Students read a variety of books about whales. They differentiate between fiction and nonfiction writing and compare whale natural behavior to the kinds of things that whales can do in fiction stories. They write their own fiction and nonfiction about whales.

Materials
- a variety of fiction and nonfiction books that feature whales or whale characters. See page two for suggested resources.

Action
1. Use independent and teacher-led reading techniques to introduce your students to books about whales. Include both fiction and nonfiction.

2. Discuss the whales you have read about. Ask students to compare the real and imaginary whales. What are the characteristics of the whales you’ve read about in nonfiction books? What are the characteristics of imaginary whales? Are some characteristics common to both? On the board, generate a list of words that describe the real and imaginary whales in your books.

3. Help students create a Venn diagram showing the characteristics of real whales and imaginary whales. Use the word list you generated in step 2.
Here’s an example:

![Venn diagram showing whales in fiction and nonfiction]

4. Ask students to write about whales. They write examples of nonfiction and fiction.
Fiction or Nonfiction
Reading Resources


*These books available through SeaWorld. Call 1-800-23-SHAMU for order information.